

Attn: CEO  
Jerramungup Shire  
Jerramungup  
WA 6337

10 May 2012

Dear Sir

RE: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH HABITAT PROTECTION AREA - LITTLE BOAT HARBOUR /  
BACK BEACH BOMMIE, BREMER BAY

Further to our recent discussion concerning the establishment of two fish habitat protection areas nominated above. This is an adjunct to the earlier support provided by council in establishing the Little Boat Harbour dive trail and the fish monitoring area encompassing the Back Beach bommie.

The prime aim is to restrict spearfishing within the two designated areas. Apart from the obvious safety issues associated with the discharge of spear guns within a well-defined aquatic recreational area, the very selective destruction of specific species is causing irreparable damage to the local marine ecology. Both these areas are highly prized by recreational snorkelers. Spear discharge 'near misses' are regularly reported so serious injury or death can be deemed not a matter of if but when.

This proposal is to be framed under the guidelines issued by Fisheries Western Australia for the establishment of such areas for human use, resource sharing, observation and education. "Areas used by commercial and recreational users, where their activities may impact adversely on the aquatic environment or lead to resource-sharing problems" and "Areas of value for public education on various aspects of fish and interpretation of issues associated with fish and their habitats or of value for the observation or appreciation of fish".

This proposal does not aim to restrict line, abalone or other forms of fishing. Its sole purpose is to maintain a balance of the local marine environment, promote interactive aquatic tourism and address the obvious safety issues associated with the discharge of spear guns within an active public aquatic recreational area.

I wish to secure the support of Shire before forwarding such a proposal to Fisheries for their consideration.

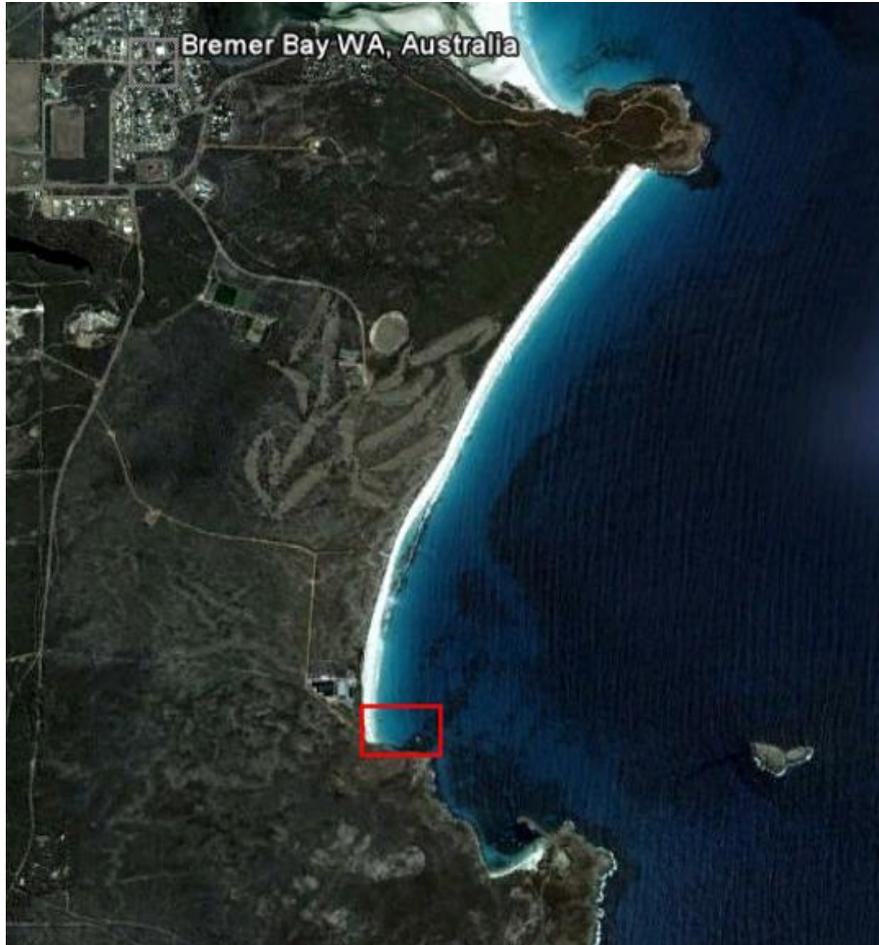
Yours

Craig Lebens  
Bremer Bay Dive

DESIGNATED PROTECTION AREAS



Proposed Habitat Protection Area - Little Boat Harbour, Bremer Bay



Proposed Habitat Protection Area – Back Beach, Bremer Bay